

Irish Labour Party joins Fine Gael

LIMERICK, Ireland (R) — Ireland's Labour Party decided Sunday to form a coalition government with Garret FitzGerald's Fine Gael Party following last month's inconclusive general election. The vote, by 846 to 522 at a special conference here, paves the way for Dr. FitzGerald to replace Charles Haughey, leader of the Fianna Fail Party, as prime minister when parliament assembles in Dublin next Tuesday. Between them, Fine Gael and Labour command a secure majority in the lower house of parliament. After three general elections in 18 months, Labour leader Dick Spring said he hoped the new coalition would rule for the full five year life of the new parliament.

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Hassan receives chamber of commerce board

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Sunday the new Amman Chamber of Commerce board led by its President Hamdi Al Tabba. In the meeting Prince Hassan stressed the need for cooperation between the commercial and industrial sectors and pointed out the major role which the commercial sector will play in promoting Jordan's economy. During the meeting, a general review of the private sector's role in the country's economy was made; and the board members expressed readiness to cooperate towards promoting the marketing of Jordan's agricultural and industrial products and in updating trade regulations.

Chatti to arrive in Bangladesh today

DACCA (R) — Habib Chatti, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), will arrive Monday for talks with Bangladesh leaders on the next Islamic foreign ministers conference, the foreign office said. The conference is due to be held here in December next year. He will confer with the military ruler, Lt.-Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad, and Foreign Minister Shamsud Doha. He will also call on President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury, the foreign office said. Mr. Chatti will later go on to Malaysia.

Libya accuses Britain of leaking fabricated news

LONDON (R) — Libya has accused the British Foreign Office of leaking "fabricated" and "Libyan news" to British newspapers last month in an attempt to sabotage an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit conference, Libya's official News Agency JANA said Sunday. The 19th summit of the OAU in Tripoli was abandoned after some delegates stayed away in protest at a deadlock over the seating of a Chad delegation. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi was to have been the new OAU chairman. JANA said Britain's ambassador to Libya was summoned to the Foreign Liaison Bureau in Tripoli Saturday to hear a protest.

Turkish authorities ban publication of leading newspaper

ANKARA (R) — Publication of a leading Turkish newspaper was banned indefinitely Sunday in six western provinces by martial law authorities in the naval port of Joluk, the semi-official Anadolu News Agency reported. In a dispatch from Golcuk, headquarters of the Turkish fleet command about 60 kilometres west of Istanbul on the Marmara Sea, the agency said martial law authorities there had also seized one of Sunday's copies of the daily Hurriyet at distributors in the area. No reason was given for the ban, the agency said. On its front page Sunday the paper, based in Istanbul but with a nationwide circulation, reported that no military judges in Golcuk had been offered bribes of 1.2 million Turkish liras (\$2,500) in return for sentencing to death four leftist militants on charges of armed robbery.

China praises U.N. law of the Sea convention

BEIJING (R) — China Sunday praised the new United Nations Law of the Sea convention as a victory for Third World unity. The People's Daily said the signing of the convention by 119 delegations for a nine-year conference was proof that the developing nations had become a force to be reckoned with in international political affairs. A commentary in the official newspaper said that despite some shortcomings, which it did not specify, the convention really embodied the common aspirations of most countries in exploration of marine resources.

Arafat in Amman to continue dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday welcomed Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Guest Palace in Amman.

Mr. Arafat who arrived earlier from Syria said that his visit was for following up earlier negotiations on future ties between Jordan and the Palestinians, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. Answering questions upon arrival at Ramtha on statements voicing disapproval of the formation of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, Mr. Arafat said that these statements are regarded as a deviation from the policy of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The force behind our march emanates from PNC decisions and not from outside quarters, he said. On the recent clashes in Tripoli

meeting is led by Mr. Badran.

Mr. Arafat and his delegation were met at Ramtha by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, Irbi Governor Abed Khalaf Daoudieh, and other local officials as well as the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army and several PLO Executive Council and PNC members.

Sunday evening the Palestinian side to the joint committee meeting led by Mr. Arafat met separately at the Guest Palace. Following the meeting, Mr. Arafat's political adviser Hani Al Hassan told Petra that the Palestinian side reviewed the outcome of recent Palestinian contacts prior to Monday's joint committee meeting.

The resolutions passed by the Fez Arab summit constitute the basis for Monday's meetings, he said.

and Bekaa, Mr. Arafat expressed regret and said that the PLO has nothing to do with them. In fact the PLO is seeking to put an end to such clashes with a view to arriving at a settlement that would ensure an end to all bloodshed among Lebanese brothers, Mr. Arafat added.

While here Mr. Arafat will head the Palestinian side at the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee and will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials, Petra said.

It is Mr. Arafat's third visit to Jordan since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon three months ago. The Jordanian side to the joint com-

1 killed, 5 wounded in Tripoli clashes

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Armed groups clashed in North Lebanon's port of Tripoli Sunday for the sixth day running, killing one person and wounding five, residents said.

They said fighting erupted Sunday morning and this afternoon artillery and machine-gun fire still echoed across the old quarters where rival pro- and anti-Syrian factions entrenched.

More than 20 people have been killed and 125 wounded in the six days of fighting, the latest in a long series of battles between supporters and opponents of Syria whose troops have been stationed in Tripoli on peacekeeping duties since the 1975-76 civil war.

The newly-appointed chief of Lebanon's paramilitary Internal Security Forces, Hisham Al Sha'ar, arrived in the city to try to help local leaders stop the fighting.

But he told reporters his men could not maintain position in the face of warring factions armed with heavier weapons.

Meanwhile state-run Beirut Radio Sunday reported artillery fire from the Shuf mountains, southeast of Beirut, where Druze and Christian militiamen have been fighting almost daily battles over recent weeks and where dozens of people have been killed. The radio said Sunday's shelling caused damage but no casualties.

Later, the radio said the groups fighting in the mountains had met and agreed to end kidnappings and to remove all armed checkpoints from roads in the Shuf region.

It said the meeting took place in the town of Bettedine and was attended by the governor of the Shuf, Issam Hobballah. Lebanese Internal Security

Forces would patrol roads in the region and could call on Israeli army support if necessary, according to a statement the radio said had been issued after the meeting.

Israeli troops have had overall control of the mountains since shortly after they invaded Lebanon in June. Lebanese police have continued to operate in the area, but this was the first report of them cooperating formally with the Israeli army.

Previous meetings between the warring parties in the mountains have produced various agreements but no peace.

The present round of fighting dates from the Israeli invasion, when Christian militias friendly to Israel were allowed to move into areas that had for years been controlled exclusively by Druze armed groups.

Egypt accuses Syria of blocking solution to Palestinian problem

BONN (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak accused Syria in an interview published Monday of blocking a solution to the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak also told the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel that President Reagan's peace proposals offered the best way to settle the Palestinian issue.

Der Spiegel reported that Mr. Mubarak, referring to the rejection of Mr. Reagan's proposals by the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Syria, said: "You know that when the PLO meets in Damascus it means that it must reject it."

He said Syria opposed any solution of the Palestinian problem. The tragedy of the Palestinians was that they were forced to bow to the views of whichever Arab country they found themselves in, which helped explain their disparate pronouncements.

"I say this quite openly. By their behaviour the Syrians are preventing any kind of negotiations," he said.

President Mubarak said that "Since the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, Syria has received financial aid, supposedly to represent the Palestinian cause and wage war against Israel."

But he added that what had happened when the Israelis marched into Lebanon was no secret. Asked if Syria's stubborn attitude was connected with Israel's continued occupation of the Golan Heights, President Mubarak said the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement foresaw negotiations with Syria over Israeli withdrawal from there.

"But the Syrians do not want any solution," he added. "They are apparently quite satisfied with the present situation. The Golan (Heights) remain with the Jews and Damascus receives cash from the Arabs."

He asked: "What do they (the Syrians) get out of putting pressure on the PLO Central Committee to reject the Reagan initiative. They should explain their logic to us."

He said if the Palestinians could

not exploit the sympathy they were receiving in the wake of the Lebanon conflict "the Palestinian problem will die".

The result would be "the destruction of future generations of Palestinians," he said.

Iraq replaces local government minister

BEIRUT (R) — Iraqi minister of local government Sadi Ayyash Arieem has been relieved of his post, the Iraqi News Agency said Sunday night.

It said a Republican decree issued Sunday night also appointed Kamel Yassin Rashid to replace him, but the agency gave no reason for the replacement.

Eight ministers lost their posts in a reshuffle on June 28.

Mubarak to seek W. German support for Mideast policy

BONN (R) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will seek West German political support for his Middle East policy and increased investment in his country when he starts a two-day visit to Bonn Monday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali told the Cairo weekly newspaper Al-Ahram that President Mubarak would try to enlist Bonn's support to speed up the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

The minister is expected to join the president in stressing this in talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other political leaders.

Diplomatic sources said Egypt had been campaigning recently for international pressure for an Israeli withdrawal and feared that

the longer this was delayed, the less chance of success there would be for peace formulas proposed by U.S. President Reagan and by last October's Arab summit in Morocco.

Cairo believed the longer peace efforts were stalled, the longer Egypt would remain in diplomatic isolation from the rest of the Arab World, they said.

President Mubarak's visit has received scant advance publicity as West Germany tries to lift its economy out of recession and to reverse spiralling unemployment.

But West German government sources said Bonn regarded the president as a "special factor of stability in the Middle East", and wanted to hear his views on the prospects for peace there.

The sources noted with approval his call last month to the Pal-

estine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise Israel's existence, even if Israel refused to negotiate with it.

Bonn's Middle East policy is based on Israel's right to exist within secure borders, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and the renunciation by all sides of the use of force.

The economic significance of President Mubarak's visit is underscored by the inclusion in his party of Investment Minister Wajih Shindi and Agriculture Minister Dr. Yousef Wali.

Only India receives more West German development aid than Egypt, which has had 2.5 billion marks (\$1 billion) in economic aid and 265.5 million marks (\$106 million) in technical aid in the past 10 years.



Mourners carry the body of the late Amman Mayor, Issam Ajlouni after prayers at the University of Jordan's Mosque (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Mayor Ajlouni laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Issam Ajlouni who died of a heart attack Saturday morning was buried Sunday at Umm Al Hiran cemetery.

The funeral was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan, cabinet members, members of the National Consultative Council and the Upper House of Parliament, Amman governor Yahya Al Mousili, heads of religious denominations, senior

officials, trade union representatives and a very large crowd of mourners.

Prayers for the late mayor were held at University of Jordan Mosque and then the body was carried to Umm Al Hiran Islamic cemetery to be buried there.

After the burial, Prince Hassan and senior officials presented their condolence to Ajlouni family. Mayor Ajlouni died Saturday at the age of 53.

Arab League, Britain reach agreement on Palestinian representation

LONDON (R) — Britain and the Arab League have struck a compromise of which it gave no details — was reached in talks in Morocco and that King Hassan of Morocco would lead an Arab Mission to London in February.

The visit was earlier postponed because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to meet a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In Saudi Arabia, Riyadh Radio warned Monday that British relations with the Arab World would be "greatly affected" unless Britain dropped such a pro-Israeli stance.

But the Telegraph said a compromise — of which it gave no details — was reached in talks in Morocco and that King Hassan of Morocco would lead an Arab Mission to London in February.

The Arab League team was set up by the Arab Summit in Fez in September to explain a pan-Arab peace plan for the Middle East.

Mrs. Thatcher's office would not comment on the Telegraph story but said Lord Chalfont, a former junior Foreign Office minister, recently had talks with King Hassan on behalf of the British government. The Riyadh Radio report warned Britain that the Arab World had the right to take "appropriate measures" to preserve its dignity in the face of London's tough stand.

"It is not in the interest of the British people that the policy of sympathy for Israel should continue for it will put an end to any Arab flexibility and prevent the slightest understanding between them and us," the radio said.

"Let the British people know that the Arabs' friendship with them and their desire to deal with them will be greatly affected if they find that Britain persists in this policy."

NCC to discuss 1983 budgets

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) in its regular session Monday will hear a statement on Jordan's 1983 fiscal budget by Finance Minister Salem Mas'adeh.

During the session, to be held under the chairmanship of Speaker Suleiman Arar, the NCC will also discuss a government proposed amendment to the 1982 budget law and is expected to endorse a loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The loan is to be used to finance Jordan's fifth electric power project.

Lord Carrington leaves for Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who arrived on a short visit to Amman Saturday left for Iraq Sunday.

In Baghdad Lord Carrington is expected to meet with senior Iraqi officials in what is officially described as a commercial visit.

Lord Carrington is director for external relations of the General Electrical Company (GEC) of England.

Earlier Sunday Finance Minister Salem Mas'adeh received in his office Lord Carrington.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Amman, the British commercial attaché and Ministry Under-Secretary Adel Al Qodah.

Portuguese local elections start amid sweeping storms

LISBON (R) — Storms sweeping Portugal held up voting Sunday in local elections that could decide the fate of Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao's rightwing coalition.

Heavy rain and winds delayed the opening of many polling booths in strongly-Catholic north Portugal, where support for the shaky coalition is strongest, and kept voters away.

Turnout in local elections is traditionally low but it was the ruling Democratic Alliance rather than the Communist or Socialist opposition which stood to lose most from abstentions.

Seven million voters were being asked to renew Portugal's three-tiered structure of local government. The most important bodies are the country's 305 town and district councils, of which 189 are held by the alliance. Voting also took place for 4,050 Parish councils.

Alliance leaders are resigned to losing some ground but a major upset such as the loss of Lisbon and Oporto, Portugal's second city, could force Mr. Balsemao out of office, according to government sources.

The alliance, with a clear majority in parliament, was fighting to keep the 47 per cent share of the national vote it won in December 1979 local elections and held on to in the October 1980 general election.

Polish martial law to end before 1983

WARSAW (R) — Poland's military ruler Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski announced Sunday night that martial law would be suspended before the end of the year. In a television address on the eve of the anniversary of the military takeover, the general said some restrictions would be maintained to shield the economy and protect the security of individuals and the state. The general said: "not a single limitation more nor less than is absolutely necessary should be maintained. The detailed proposals will be submitted to the Sejm (parliament) Monday." The Sejm is due to discuss legal measures involved with easing martial law restrictions at a two-day session starting Monday. It will meet again on Dec. 23 and senior officials said it was expected to rule on the suspension of military rule then.

Hussein leaves for Washington

TOKYO (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein left for the United States Sunday after a four-day visit during which he exchanged views with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations.

The King who is accompanied by his son Prince Abdullah and Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi will meet in Washington with President Reagan.

King Hussein Sunday met in Tokyo with members of the Jordanian-Japanese parliamentary friendship committee which is charged with promoting Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in various fields.

Also Sunday King Hussein visited a Japanese firm specialising in electronic industries and was briefed by its manager on the firm's projects and the production of computers and other electronic equipment.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Prince Abdullah and the other members of the Jordanian delegation.

Before coming to Japan, King Hussein visited France, the Soviet Union and China at the head of an Arab League mission to outline an eight-point Arab peace plan for the Middle East adopted at a conference in September in Fez, Morocco.

Zaid Ibn Shaker leaves for U.S.

Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker left Sunday for the United States on a visit expected to last several days.

He was seen off at Amman Airport by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, senior army officers and the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Amman.

Bayulken ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Turkish Defence Minister Haluk Bayulken and his accompanying delegation left Amman for home Sunday at the end of their four-day visit to Jordan.

The Turkish delegation were received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The Turkish minister also toured military positions and archaeological sites in Jordan.

The delegation was seen off by the Commander-in-Chief, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, a number of army officers and the Turkish ambassador to Jordan.

In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Bayulken expressed his admiration at Jordan's achievements and the high standard of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

He also praised the good and historical ties between Jordan and Turkey and voiced his appreciation to Jordanian officials for the hospitality accorded to the Turkish delegation during the visit which aimed at increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Evren arrives in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived in Karachi Sunday for an overnight stopover on his way to China at the start of a two-week tour of five Asian nations.

Gen. Evren's four-day visit to China will be the first by a Turkish head of state. He is due to return to Pakistan for one day at the end of his tour which will also take him to Indonesia, South Korea and Bangladesh.

He was met at Karachi Airport by Pakistan's Acting Chief Martial Law Administrator, Mohammad Iqbal Khan, and other officials.

The tour, aimed at improving relations and trade links with the five countries, is Gen. Evren's first foreign trip since being elected president in a national referendum last month.

The Preliminary Commissioning Stage of Jordan's International Switching Centre (ISC)

As from Dec. 2, 1982, Jordanian telephone subscribers enjoy International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) upon the preliminary commissioning of the fully electronic digital switching centre connected via satellite and terrestrial dedicated circuits to the following limited number of destinations for trial purposes and to verify the software of the switch.

The said destinations are :-

Country	Country Code	Capital Town	Code
USA	1	WASHINGTON	202
U.K.	44	LONDON	1
France	33	PARIS	1
Saudi Arabia	966	RIYADH	1
UAE	971	ABU DHABI	2
Syria	963	DAMASCUS	11

N.B. (1) :-

The access "Code" to the ISC is 13 which should be dialled first, followed by the country Code & then the area code within that country and then the subscriber number.

N.B. (2) :-

For subscribers connected to the two mobile exchanges within Amman i.e. with numbers starting with

33 for Central Area
43 for Zehran Area

the access Code is 00

N.B. 3 :-

It is expected that there will be a delay of 20-30 seconds before the calling subscriber could hear the ringing or busy tone.

N.B. (4) :-

For any information regarding country or area code please dial 39361 for the required information.

Mr. Mohammad Shahid Ismail, director-general of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), said that the TCC will retain the present existing international services for some time to come as a precautionary measure i.e. the existing (one-way) ISD service through the French network, the semi-automatic, and the present manual services.

At a later date (depending on the degree of success to be achieved) the TCC will gradually connect the ISD to other international destinations and increase the number of circuits to achieve more "terminal" as well as transit international service to the countries of thin traffic with Jordan.

Jordan's "country" and "area" codes :-

For people calling Jordan from abroad the following applies :-

Country Code	(962)	Zarka Code	9
Amman Code	6	Aqaba Code	32
Irbid Code	2	Salt Code	5

EXAMPLE :- To call a subscriber in Aqaba whose number is XXXX, the dialling procedure should be in the following sequence:-

- Dial the International "Prefix" of the country you are calling from.
- Dial Jordan's "Country Code" (962)
- Dial Area Code (In this case the Area Code of Aqaba is 32)
- Dial the Subscriber No. in Aqaba XXXX.

N.B.

- ISD (Outgoing Services) will be available first to the subscribers within Amman. Few days later other governorates will be connected.
- As for the incoming international traffic to Jordan it will be processed through the new switching centre to Amman area and to the other towns mentioned above.

For further information please dial 662121

Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

Director General

HOME NEWS

Aviation council denounces Israeli use of Kalandia

AMMAN (Petra) — Israel's use of Kalandia airport near Jerusalem was one of the major topics discussed by the Civil Aviation Council of Arab States in its recent meetings in Kuwait. Jordan's Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Saleh Al Kurdi said Sunday.

Mr. Kurdi, who represented Jordan at the five-day meetings, said that the council denounced Israel's use of the airport and urged the delegates representing various Arab countries to step up their efforts at international levels to seek an end to Israel's use of the airport which is legally under Jordanian sovereignty.

Mr. Kurdi added that the council also pointed out that Israel's use of the airport is in defiance of U.N. resolutions and international law. The Kuwait meeting endorsed all the resolutions passed by an Arab civil aviation conference held in Amman last April and also discussed the use of satellites in space communications. Mr. Kurdi said.

The delegates at the meeting called for a meeting early next year of a special joint Arab air transport committee which will be entrusted with the task of drawing up plans for maintaining the current air fares in the Arab region. Mr. Kurdi said.

The committee will also be asked to draw up measures for encouraging tourism among Arab states. Mr. Kurdi added.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled to be held in Algiers at a date to be fixed later, Mr. Kurdi said.

Bishop Qub'ain buried

AMMAN (J.T.) — The former head of the Arab Evangelical Episcopal Church in Amman, Bishop Najib Qub'ain, who died here Friday was buried Sunday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated the director of his office, Raja'i Al Dajani, to attend the funeral and to convey his condolences to the church's leaders.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran delegated Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim to attend the funeral of Bishop Qub'ain.

AOAS general session begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) opened its 18th general meeting here Sunday.

Delegates from 15 Arab countries will discuss, among other things on the agenda, an AOAS plan for the coming year, training and research programmes that benefit Arab members states as well as the organisation's 1983 budget.

Addressing the opening session, AOAS Director General Abdullah Zuh'ir expressed hope that the delegates would draw up plans to develop Arab countries' administrative systems.

Countries taking part in the week-long meeting are Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Mauritania, North Yemen, Sudan, Palestine, Libya, Bahrain, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Financial course opens at IPA

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day training course on financial analysis opened at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) here Sunday. A total of 25 participants from cooperative organisations around the country who are attending the course will be oriented on ways of granting loans and on financial analysis.

Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director-General Hassan Nabulsi spoke at the opening session outlining the importance of cooperative work to promote national economic and social development. This training course, he said, is designed to contribute towards achieving this goal.

Chinese youth delegation visits university

IRBID (Petra) — A Chinese youth delegation Sunday visited Yarmouk University here and met with its officials and students. The delegation members were briefed on the development of the university, its sports activities and programmes. They also toured various sections of the university including the library and gymnasium hall and workshops.

Open discussion debates possibilities of peace in Middle East

Abu Odeh: Jordan no substitute for PLO

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will never be a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and will not act as a representative of the Palestinians, a senior Jordanian minister has asserted.

Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh, who Saturday took part in an open dialogue on "The Probabilities of Peace: Illusion or Reality?" organised by the Arab Women Alumni Club, said: "We are sincerely and seriously heading towards a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict."

Mr. Abu Odeh added that "Jordan respects and supports the independent nature of the PLO and Palestinian resolutions."

Referring to the current Jordanian-Palestinian talks, the information minister said that Jordan and the PLO are going to work jointly within the framework of the peace plan adopted at the Fez Arab summit held last September.

Mr. Abu Odeh also reviewed various peace plans for the Middle East conflict, including the Venice Declaration adopted by the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1980, the Soviet peace initiative announced in 1981, the joint French-Egyptian proposals of mid-1982, the Reagan peace plan put forward in September 1982 and the Fez summit resolutions.

"Conciliatory formula"

Mr. Abu Odeh pointed out that all plans called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from

Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Mr. Abu Odeh compared the Arab peace plan with the Reagan initiative and concluded that the French-Egyptian proposals can serve as a "conciliatory formula" which might be able to integrate the realistic aspects of both the Reagan and Arab plans.

The information minister pointed out that since 1948 the Middle East has been witnessing "a stalemate characterised by a no-war-no-peace situation."

Arab, Israeli options

Consequently, Mr. Abu Odeh said, the Arab-Israeli wars of 1967 and 1973 were in fact exceptions. He added that the stalemate was due to the fact that Israel have had two options for achieving its objectives while the Arabs had only one. The first option, which the Israelis have always chosen, Mr. Abu Odeh said, was the realisation of their goals through war.

The second alternative, for Israel is peaceful means, although Israel has always rejected all peace initiatives, he said.

The Arabs, on the other hand, due to historic and objective factors, have the only choice of peaceful means. Mr. Abu Odeh asserted.

Mr. Abu Odeh pointed out that a historical study of Israeli policies since its inception shows that Israel, "unlike all other countries in the area, had always carried out de facto policies in its strategy superseding ideology."

"Israel has imposed a gradual

Randa Habib's CORNER

A novel way of charity

In this corner I have often been aggressive and ironical. I have done it (and will continue to do so every time I feel it necessary) with the purpose of pointing out mistakes so that they can be corrected. Of course we live in a small country with limited resources but with what we have we can definitely improve our standard of life.

Let us do this with humour and open mind. However, this corner does not only criticise. I have mentioned charitable gestures which serve as examples for others. Our talk for today falls in this second category.

I am probably telling you nothing new when I say that physical exercise is the sound of modern music is the new craze that has overtaken Jordanian women.

Called modern dancing, this consists of physical exercises done with modern music. Courses are given in hotels, cultural centres and sports clubs. It didn't take long for hundreds of women to practice these exercises regularly (twice or three times a week).

Well really, why not? Physical exercise is a healthy hobby that helps you keep in shape and stay fit.

The new idea, however, is the outfit some Jordanian ladies have transformed into something more useful. One of them has graciously offered her home to those "sportswomen" while another lady, also free of cost, conducts the lessons.

The fees paid daily by the participants are put aside for a needy student's scholarship.

An excellent initiative to be applied in other fields and circumstances.

Postage stamp honours founder of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has issued a postage stamp to commemorate the 10th birthday anniversary of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

A ministry spokesman said that the new stamp, of five denominations, will be put into circulation throughout the country's post offices as of Monday. The stamp depicts a profile of King Abdullah and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

"The ministry takes real pride in issuing this commemorative stamp which will crown the country's series of stamps that feature Jordan's cultural heritage," Minister of Communications Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben said in a comment on the issuance of the new stamp.

French envoy, Zaben discuss communications

AMMAN (Petra) — French Ambassador to Jordan Jacques Alami le Chateaux de Sedouy Sunday met with Communications Minister Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben and discussed ways of improving telephone communications between Jordan and France now that an international switching centre has become operational. They also discussed increasing cooperation in postal services between the two countries.

2.6m families registered

AMMAN (J.T.) — The total number of Jordanian families registered with the Civil Status Department until end November 1982 was 409,664 with 2,620,134 members of whom 1,365,074 are males, according to the department's official records.

RSS submits working paper at plastics technology seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A working paper by Salah Ghani from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) was discussed Sunday by a seminar on plastics technology and its applications which opened here Saturday.

The paper deals with the technological services offered by the RSS to Jordanian plastics industry, and tackles various technical and economic problems of the industry.

The paper calls for the establishment of a training centre to train technicians in plastics technology and for increasing duty on imported plastic products to protect local product.

The seminar has been organised by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) in cooperation with the RSS.

University opens photograph exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day photograph exhibition was opened at the University of Jordan Sunday. The photographs on display, taken by university students, depict archaeological sites, plants and flowers and traditional crafts in Jordan. University Vice-President Mahmoud Al Samra along with deans, university teachers and students attended the opening ceremony.

of a national plan to face challenges.

He also stressed the significance of restoring parliamentary life to Jordan including the West Bank "which will enhance national unity."

Dr. Sha'er also outlined several points which, he said, "can serve as a basis for a competent national plan."

"A plan should be based on the continuation of talks between the PLO and Jordan, the support of the legitimacy of the PLO and the independence of Palestinian decisions, and proper considerations of all proposed peace initiatives."

Dr. Sha'er, however, stressed that the "Arabs cannot move towards any settlement for peace until the Palestinian decisions are announced."

"Arabs strategy needed"

Mr. Arafat Hijazi, the deputy director general of Al Dabour newspaper, who acted as the moderator of the debate, stressed that although both the U.S. and the Soviet Union came up with peace proposals, they were "not able to realise their plans due to Israel's obstinate position."

Mr. Hijazi also gave an elaborate explanation of the "colonial and expansionist objectives of the Zionist movement" saying that "Israel is preparing itself to assume an international role as a superpower."

He concluded that "about talks probabilities of peace can be more realistic if the Arabs formulate a unified strategy to counter Israel's expansionist plans."

Call for national plan
Dr. Sha'er, a member of the National Consultative Council (NCC), called for the formulation

By Tony Barber
Reporter

Teenage female smokers — beware of health hazards

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is worried that young people, particularly girls, are smoking too much and some health workers blame advertising portraying smokers as sporty or seductive.

The U.N. says cigarette-smoking is increasing for both male and female teenagers, but that in many countries girls are now outsmoking boys for the first time.

And it thinks smoking ought to be turned into a habit practised only by adults who just cannot

give it up.

A recent study by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is part of the U.N. system, says the rise in female teenage smoking is especially worrying because girls are prone to health problems which cannot affect boys.

If she uses birth control pills, a smoking girl increases the risk of suffering brain and heart disorders when she is older, the study says. In particular, she makes herself more vulnerable to cerebral thrombosis and haemorrhage and

coronary heart disease.

According to the study, that problem is growing because each year more and more girls are using oral contraceptives, in developing and developed countries alike.

Survey in the 1960s in countries such as France, Norway, New Zealand and the Philippines confirmed that smoking among adolescent girls was on the rise in the post-war world.

The WHO study reports the unprecedented statistic that by the end of the 1970s, out of 22 countries surveyed, girls were out-

smoking boys in 11 of them.

According to the study, Italian and Greek girls light up the most. Fifty-five per cent of Italian girls aged between 16 and 18 were smokers in the 1970s, compared with 51 per cent of Italian boys. For Greece, the figures were 54 per cent of girls and 46 per cent of boys.

The other countries where girls outsmoke boys are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

In four of five developing countries surveyed — Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Papua New Guinea — it was found that more boys than girls smoked. In the fifth, Uruguay, 46 per cent of teenagers of both sexes were smokers.

Thirty-three per cent of Swedish girls smoke, compared with 21 per cent of Swedish boys. Some health professionals who have wrestled with the question of why more girls are smoking believe the cigarette advertising industry has much to answer for.

The WHO, a Geneva-based body that has dedicated itself to

the goal of health for all by the year 2000, also has strong words for cigarette makers, observing: "A sporting life and a smoke go well together — so cigarette manufacturers suggest in advertisements crafted to appeal to young adults."

Despite the image advertising conveys, a majority of those who engage in sports do not smoke," it adds.

The WHO argues that boys may turn to smoking because girls are depicted as "bait" in many tobacco advertisements.

According to UNCTAD (the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) statistics, the tobacco industry spends more than two billion dollars annually on advertising.

The WHO study says there is a worldwide recognition of the need to counter teenage smoking, but adds: "It is surprising to note that only a handful of countries have collected information on the prevalence of smoking in youth."

It calls on public health authorities to compile data on which to base anti-smoking campaigns

aimed at boys and girls.

The result, according to WHO Director-General Halfdan Mahler, is that smoking-related cancer threatens to become one of tomorrow's major health hazards in developing countries.

In its last major report, issued in 1979, the WHO's expert committee on smoking control recommended that "every effort be made to reduce smoking to the status of a private activity of a minority of adults who are unable to give up."

With an optimism typical of the U.N., it said this should be seen as an attainable goal within the next two decades at the latest.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By Tareq Masarwah

Lost is Arab action

ARAB political action vis-a-vis Israel has never been more vulnerable and weak over the past half century as it is at present. It has lost its power to offer alternatives because it has no dynamic force—whether military, economic or even financial. The Arabs are therefore unable to improve their negotiating position or change the balance in the Middle East, or in Washington which is Israel's major supporter.

If the Arabs are unable to make any military moves at any given time or place or to employ their financial or oil influence for their own benefit then Arab political moves to force Israel out of Lebanon or Palestine are doomed. And because Arab political action has lost the ability to deal with international forces effectively, neither Arab friendship nor hostility can now influence other countries.

The Arabs express their satisfaction or anger only with words; and it seems that words are all that matters to the Arab Nation. Why then should we expect more than just words from the rest of the world?

The Arab political action has lost its national content, its size and weight, and has lost its power to deal with the enemy and with the world at large. As a normal procedure, nations which are threatened by aggression do not only resort to non-political means to regain their rights, whereas we Arabs resort to the United Nations and the United States in the same feeble manner with which we face Israel. We normally return with a U.N. resolution and a U.S. peace plan, and nothing more.

On the other hand, our enemy goes ahead with plans to change the status of our occupied land and the balance of power in the region for his own benefit. The Arab political action remains a prisoner of its own weakness and the Arab political moves more or less resemble a movie picture in which one could guess the end right from the first scene.

Any Arab move should be coupled with strength and any action should be accompanied with power because there can be no victory or defeat by chance, nor can there be any Arab sovereignty over Arab land, or loss of that sovereignty, by chance either.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Is the U.S. serious about Reagan initiative?

It has become customary for the U.S. to take an odd attitude against the will of the great majority of world community when things do not go well with Israel's expansionist policies.

The U.S. administration has successfully voted against three of the United Nations General Assembly's resolutions during the last few weeks, openly supporting with Israel's aggressive schemes, and annexationist plans.

After voting against a resolution almost unanimously passed by the General Assembly, calling on Israel to give up plans for establishing a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, another similar stand was adopted by the U.S. opposing a resolution that calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from the occupied Arab territories. A third hostile gesture was explicitly made when a resolution calling for the convening of an international conference on the Palestinian question next August in Paris.

The three American moves to break Israel's

isolation on the international level only make us wonder how long those who tried to see some positive aspects in the Reagan initiative will be able to hold to such an attitude. Such an illusion created by mere rhetoric cannot stand long against a background of rapidly accumulating practicalities that openly show no real American intention to implement any of the Reagan proposals that do not receive unreserved blessings by Israel.

It is paradoxical that the U.S. administration, while committing itself to such a stand fervently urges that time is of vital importance in the Middle East conflict. The real aim seems to be pressing the Arabs into adopting the Reagan initiative, and recognising Israel with the least hint at securing practical steps leading to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region.

The game of deed contrasting words makes us also wonder if President Reagan's initiative is simply a political manoeuvre, and whether the Arabs should take it seriously.

Al Dustour: Realising common Arab objective -- a priority

The modern Arab history has not witnessed a stage at which ambiguity and inconsistency had been the prominent characteristic of the state of things as it is now. Moreover, the Arab Nation has never faced a similar threat to the one now it faces at the hands of the Zionists.

The conspiracies by colonialist forces which the Great Arab Revolt had to confront at the beginning of the century were of traditional colonialist nature aimed at plundering the natural resources and securing strategic positions in the region. But the present Zionist threat aims at liquidating the national identity of the Arabs, and eliminating their existence as a nation.

Against such a threat, we regrettably hear Arab voices of criticism and even discrediting joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts aimed at confronting dangers threatening the two people and formulating future relations, an issue that should be understood as a preliminary step for rallying front-line Arab forces against the ceaseless threat to all the Arab Nation.

The threat to all Arab soil should necessarily urge us into seeking realistic ways to tackle our problems, and settle differences to reinforce the general Arab potential in the face of looming threats.

DE FACTONOMICS

Trade protectionism has reached home

By T.A. Jaber

Trade protectionism means that a government imposes restrictions on all or some imports in order to protect local industries and ensure jobs for nationals. Many tools are used for that end. For example, ban on imports, quotas, higher tariffs, preferential trade agreements with a number of countries which form a block, and differential rates of exchange.

Protectionism usually involves competition among the trading countries to capture outside markets through export promotion. A set of tools can also be used for that purpose, such as direct subsidies to national exporters, barter trade, dumping, export credit financing and others.

It is usually expected that protectionism grows when the world economy faces recession. For the last four years, the industrialised countries are suffering from economic recession. Earlier hopes that 1982 would witness economic recovery did not materialise.

Even worse, the projections

for 1983 are grim. A recession in industrialised countries spreads to all other smaller economies of the Third World. Even the oil-exporting Arab countries have been moderately affected by the damped demand for oil. A further squeeze should be expected in the next year.

The international community has since World War II faced many challenges.

However, its weakest part is related to international trade. The International Trade Organisation which was conceived in the late 1940's did not materialise. It was replaced by a loose setup, namely, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which does not have a mandatory power.

The GATT meeting two weeks ago failed to settle the problem of increasing protectionism, particularly among the major traders of the North, namely, the United States, the European Community and Japan. In all international economic discussions and neg-

otiations, Western industrialised countries maintain, more or less, a common position vis-a-vis the developing countries.

In the field of trade, Western countries have got so many complaints against each other that issues of interest to the Third World hardly make news.

Consequently, the GATT meeting ended with protectionist policies left intact. The United States will maintain its restrictions on steel, cars and other European and Japanese products. The European Community couples restrictions with export subsidies particularly on farm products, while Japan maintains direct limitations on competing imports.

This in no way will revive the world economy. If there is any accepted argument for trade protectionism, it was stated one hundred and fifty years ago by John Stuart Mill, namely, the infant industry argument.

New industries in the developing countries, according to this argument, must be protected from the competition of the more efficient production and better produce in industrialised countries. This form of protection was thought as a temporary measure and was only supposed to last long enough to help an infant industry survive.

Thus, Jordan as a developing country with a small market is totally justified to initiate protective measures for its infant industries. World recession and growing protectionism has made this policy imperative. The Aluminium and Ceramic factories have benefited from the new government measure compelling importers to locally procure a given part of their total requirements.

Similar protectionist measures can be expected to be taken in favour of other domestic industries. While I fully agree with this approach and defend it, some related problems should be kept in mind.

Protectionism is a dynamic policy and as such should not be kept for many years. It might result in the erroneous and dangerous assumption by local industries that the market is guaranteed and should be taken for granted.

Protectionism increases the administrative burden on the government which daily supervises the implementation of protective measures. Price and quality controls must be enhanced. Our consumers will otherwise suffer. The commission agents and other importers will be relatively curtailed with their profits pressured. Shareholders of protected industries may expect higher profits and capital gains. Thus, protectionism has widespread effects which influence the pattern of income distribution in the country.

Selective protection of our industries must be welcomed, but its negative effects should be mitigated.

Early general election hoped to solve Nakasone's domestic and external problems

By Yuko Nakamikado

Reuter

TOKYO — Japan's new Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, saddled with a host of domestic and external problems, may well hold an early general election to strengthen his position, political analysts say. The next election is not due until June 1984, but the analysts noted that a snap poll would suit Mr. Nakasone's powerful backer, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

A verdict is likely next year in Mr. Tanaka's trial on charges of taking a bribe from the U.S. Lockheed aircraft corporation while prime minister. The analysts said Mr. Tanaka would want to minimise the threat to his political survival if he is found guilty by increasing the number of parliamentarians from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in his LDP faction, already the biggest in parliament.

Critics of Mr. Nakasone see the composition of his cabinet as a payoff for Mr. Tanaka's support and have dubbed it the "Tanakasone" or even the "Tanaka" cabinet.

They said it was a marriage between Mr. Nakasone's desire to tackle thorny problems by placing the right men in the right places and Mr. Tanaka's strategy over his trial. Despite a weak power base in the LDP, Mr. Nakasone won a landslide victory in last month's election for a new party leader and immediately installed six members of Mr. Tanaka's faction and a friend of Mr. Tanaka in his 21-seat cabinet.

A hue and cry followed, arousing latent animosities among Mr. Nakasone's own faction and another supporting faction led by his predecessor, Zenko Suzuki, LDP sources said. Most con-

troversial was the appointment of Masaharu Gotoda, a trusted confidant of Mr. Tanaka, as chief cabinet secretary. Mr. Nakasone said in defence that Mr. Gotoda, reported to be well versed in local administration and Japan's bureaucratic machinery, was well qualified to coordinate the important task of administrative reform. In addition to retaining Susumu Nakaido, Mr. Tanaka's right-hand man, as LDP secretary general where he is responsible for organising elections, party funds and personnel, Mr. Nakasone gave the pivotal cabinet and party posts to Tanaka men.

Cover-up

His choice of Akira Hatano, a former superintendent of the metropolitan police board and a friend of Mr. Tanaka, as justice minister was criticised as a "Lockheed cover-up appointment." Legal experts said a justice minister had no authority over a court ruling since there was a clear separation of power between Japan's legislative, executive and judiciary bodies. But political analysts said he could perhaps help to alter a court schedule.

Among the pressing tasks ahead, Mr. Nakasone's government must seek parliamentary approval of a supplementary budget for the fiscal year ending next March 31 during the current session lasting until Dec. 20. The supplementary budget calls for a 2.118 billion yen (\$8.47 billion) cut in spending to trim a deficit and the floating of additional national bonds worth 3,905 billion yen (\$15 billion).

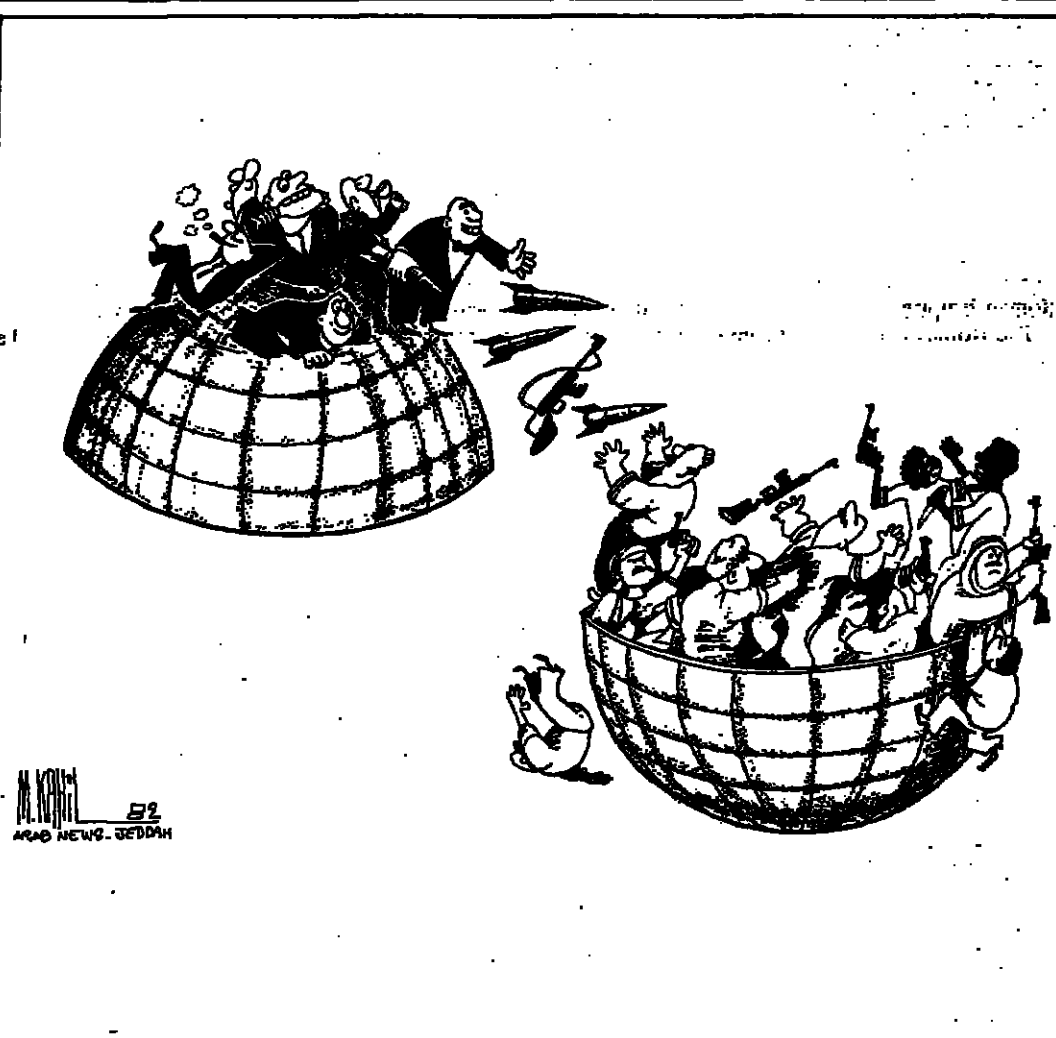
The session will discuss a bill setting up a committee to divide the state-run Japanese national railways into seven local companies prior to transferring them to the private sector.

Hot debate is also expected on a government decision to freeze a 4.58 per cent pay rise for half a million government workers and a proposed arbitration award of seven per cent wage increases for workers in the railways, two other public corporations and five government enterprises. The prime minister's first major diplomatic test will be over Japan's planned

defence buildup, regarded by the United States as insufficient, and its trade surplus with the United States approaching \$20 billion this year.

Mr. Nakasone, who has said that other policies will not function effectively without stable relations with the United States, is due to meet President Reagan in Washington on Jan. 18. The ana-

lysts said any serious clash between the government and the opposition could prompt Mr. Nakasone to dissolve the lower house this month for a snap general election next month. If he did not, his next opportunity to go to the polls to seek stronger underpinning for his leadership would be in April, coinciding with local elections on April 10 and 24.



Mao's last bastion falls

By Tony Walker

At Shaoshan, in the green and pleasant hills of Hunan province, the peasants are chanting new slogans that have less to do with the lofty ideals of the district's most famous son than with putting more money in the pockets of individual farmers and more food in the mouths of their families.

Shaoshan is Mao Tse-tung's home village and, until recently, one of the few places in China where the late Chairman's views about agricultural management were still being followed. Today, according to local officials, most, if not all, of Shaoshan's peasants have repudiated Mao's rigid policies of collectivisation. Now they practise a "responsibility" system, whereby farmers engage in production in small groups or on a household by household basis.

Mao would almost certainly not approve of what is happening in the place where, as a young man, he formed views that were to harden in later years of the need to create a classless, altruistic, peasant-based Utopia.

In the China of today, however, Mao and his views are something of an anachronism, the subject of continuing debate and quiet controversy in the inner circles of the Communist Party.

At the Memorial Hall in Shaoshan village, the history of Mao and Maoism, depicted in nine chambers of relics and portraits,

stops abruptly in 1949, the point at which there is little debate among contemporary Chinese historians about Mao's contribution to the revolution.

Duang Xinghua, our guide, explained ingenuously that the tenth chamber, dealing with Mao in the post-1949 era, remains closed while some "trimming work" is done. The problem for the authorities in Peking is how to depict the series of Mao-inspired disasters that befell China after the Communists came to power, culminating in the Cultural Revolution officially described as a "long drawn-out and grace blunder."

Mao's reputation

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Mao was God in China, tens of thousands of people streamed through Shaoshan, many of them Red Guards in the early stages of the Cultural Revolution brandishing little red books of Mao quotations.

On the Sunday I visited Shaoshan, there were perhaps a hundred or so Chinese tourists inspecting the house in which Mao lived, the school in which he studied and the pond where he threatened to commit suicide after a family argument. The mood among the tourists was not one of reverence. In the six years since his death, Mao's reputation has been stripped of its immortality. From being a large boulder in the

way of progress Maoism is now an occasional rallying point for conservative figures in the leadership who are not happy with the changes overtaking Chinese society.

A less than reverential attitude towards the Mao family was evinced by one guide who described Mao's father, a rich peasant whose picture shows him to have been a man of gaunt features adorned by a Fu Manchu moustache, as "greedy."

The older Mao was a grain merchant who had owned or leased four acres of land. In the early 1970s, however, local guides were most reluctant even to disclose the extent of the family's landholdings. In Shaoshan, evidence can be found here and there of what could be described as "symbols of contradiction" between the sort of policies Mao espoused and those now in force today.

Learn from Dazhai

On the wall of a mud-brick farmhouse facing the small valley in which the late Chairman spent his early life, faded Chinese characters spell out: "In agriculture learn from Dazhai". The words are an almost mocking reminder of perhaps Mao's greatest folly: The ruthless collectivisation of agriculture to the point where individual enterprise was stifled.

Dazhai was the production brigade in north China held up by the Maoists as a model during the Cultural Revolution of what could be

achieved through rigid communism. It has since been revealed that achievements at Dazhai were exaggerated, that production figures were falsified and state funds wasted on expensive irrigation projects.

Of all the provinces in China, it is perhaps unsurprising that Hunan appears to have been the most reluctant to fall into line with the new policies of Deng Xiaoping. It was revealed recently that Mao Zhiyong (no relation to Mao Tse-tung), the provincial Communist Party leader, confessed to blindly following Mao and obstructing economic reforms.

According to the People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, Mao Zhiyong admitted his mistakes before a provincial Party Committee on Sept. 21 this year. The Hunan Party chief said that he and local officials gave "improper publicity" to Mao under the influence of the personality cult of the late Chairman.

Furthermore, Mao Zhiyong said that he and his colleagues had failed to implement the reforms of the third plenary session of the eleventh Communist Party Central Committee in 1978 (when Deng swung China away from doctrinaire Maoist policies), failed to repudiate the Cultural Revolution and failed to redress wrong verdicts (against purged officials) of that period.

In October, the People's Daily

reported that peasants in Mao's home village had been influenced by "extreme left" doctrines, but had now realised their errors and were better off as a result. Tan Ruiyin, a peasant farmer who lives in the house looking across a small valley towards the Mao family residence, is a convert to the new system of agricultural management. She explained that her family now had twice as much rice as before, and as much again left over for sale to the state.

Tan, aged 52, remembers the "invasion" by thousands of red guards at the start of the Cultural Revolution, when it is said that as many as 70,000 a day swarmed into Shaoshan. "They slept on the floor and in the loft," she said. "They came with red books and red banners and were singing the East is Red" (A Mao cult song). Because they were guests of Chairman Mao we felt obliged to treat them nicely."

Tan, who entertained Mao to tea in 1959 on his last visit to his home town—the late Chairman's portrait is proudly displayed in the reception area of her house—replied diplomatically when asked about the repudiation of Maoist policies.

"From my point of view, Mao Tse-tung paved the way for a new Socialist society," Tan said. "His successors are following Mao's ideas with variations."

— Financial Times news feature

'Less carrot more stick'

By John Morrison

Reuter

MOSCOW — By publicly threatening to match President Reagan's MX missile programme with a similar weapon of its own, the Kremlin seems to be changing the style, if not the substance, of its policy towards Washington.

The threat to match the 10-warhead MX with a Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile of the same class which would "in no way be inferior" was issued on Dec. 6 by Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov. Diplomats said the warning was designed to influence a finely balanced debate in the U.S. Congress over the missile and defence specialists said they had been aware that Moscow was working on a new generation of missiles.

Most analysts here believed it would be wrong to look for deep shifts in Soviet policy towards Washington in the four weeks since Yuri Andropov inherited the Communist Party leadership from Leonid Brezhnev. In the final months of his life, Mr. Brezhnev, closely identified throughout the 1970s with the goal of détente with the United States, seemed to be trimming his policies, possibly under Mr. Andropov's influence.

Now under Mr. Andropov there seems to be a new tone, summed up by one diplomat as "less carrot, more stick." Mr. Brezhnev liked to present himself as a man of peace and tried to influence the west by promoting a series of

much publicised "peace" initiatives. The last of these was his pledge in June that the Soviet Union would not be the first to use nuclear weapons. Under Mr. Andropov, such initiatives, which were generally dismissed by Western governments, seem likely to become a thing of the past.

Privately, some Soviet officials said they hoped the "pacifism" of the Brezhnev period would give way to a tougher, no-nonsense approach. They said Mr. Brezhnev went on too long expecting far too much from the Soviet-American relationship in which he had invested his personal prestige. "I hope we will now stop crawling on our stomachs to the Americans," one Soviet official said.

Launch on warning

Marshal Ustinov's missile deployment threat came a few days after an article by the semi-official Novosti news agency which suggested Moscow would adopt a "launch on warning" doctrine if NATO went ahead with the deployment of Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe.

Whether this new, more beligerent tone from Moscow meant more than just a change of propaganda style has been hard to tell. There have been signs that, some time before Mr. Brezhnev died, Moscow's policymakers had concluded there was little to expect from relations with Washington while President Reagan occupied the White House.

Moscow has now apparently scaled down, if not abandoned, its hopes that the peace movement in the west would force Mr. Reagan to change his policies. The views now dominant in Moscow have appeared to be those of the Soviet military, which has always been sceptical about entrusting its country's security to the uncertain future of the peace movement.

Alexander Bavin, a respected foreign policy analyst for Izvestia newspaper, commented last week in a Soviet television programme that his optimism about relations with Washington has run out.

"Of course we must keep talking with the Americans and look for compromises. But my feeling is that we will not be able to reach agreements on anything serious with this administration," he said. Diplomats here believed Moscow was, for economic reasons, still seriously interested in agreements with Washington on arms control, both in the strategic sphere and in medium-range nuclear weaponry in Europe.

Washington has said parallel negotiations on strategic and medium-range weapons now in progress in Geneva were useful and constructive, while Moscow has said virtually nothing had been achieved and would not be unless the United States "changed its stand." But Moscow has now apparently adopted the attitude that it did not want agreements at any price, and was quite prepared to meet the challenge of a new round in the arms race if necessary.

Scientists start developing improved commercial varieties of palm tree

Palms — a new high-energy food resources?

By Catherine Canfield

LONDON — Science is finally turning its attention to the unsung palm trees of the world. It may be just in time.

Botanists at Harvard and Tufts universities in the United States recently analysed the "mil pesos" palm (*Jessenia batana*) of the Amazon basin and found that the fruit's protein was as nutritious as good animal protein and better than soybeans.

The fruit juice is as nutritious as human milk, and the fatty acid content of the oil equals that of olive oil, one of the most concentrated energy foods known.

So the New York Botanical Garden's Economic Plant Unit has begun to breed the tree to develop commercial varieties resistant to disease; able to survive extremes of climate; and with more nutritious fruit and shorter trunks for easier harvesting.

But to improve the mil pesos, or any of the world's other under-used palms, scientists will need to locate many different wild populations and races of the species, choosing the qualities they want from each. This will be difficult, as the palm family is one of the most threatened of the world's plant families, according to experts at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London.

A vanishing resource

Palms live in tropical forests, and tropical forests are vanishing at the rate of 14 hectares per minute, according to a U.N. study. An area much larger than Ireland disappears each year.

This loss already means fewer wild populations from which to breed improved strains of the better known palms. The oil palm, grown on plantations by multinational corporations in West Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia,

supplies more edible oil per hectare than any other plant or animal. The coconut and date palms provide staple foods in the areas where they are grown.

Of the 2,800 palm species, those three are the only ones widely cultivated. Other palms are treasured by local populations. An ancient Hindu song lists 801 uses for the palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) of Africa and Asia.

Rattan, which comes from the stems of spiny climbing palms, is, after timber, the most important forest product of Southeast Asia, and products being worth over \$1.2 billion annually.

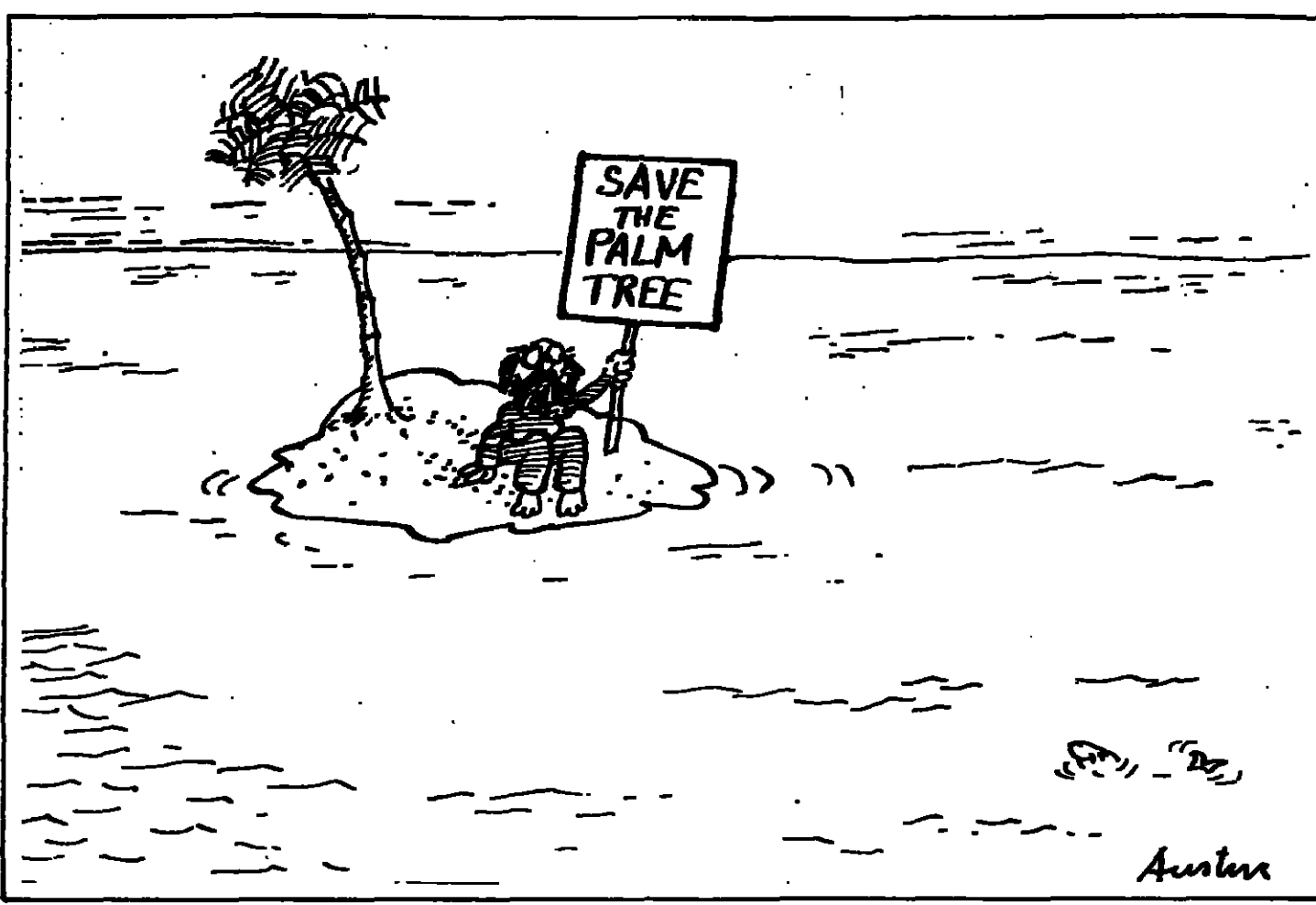
Local esteem

Now science and big business are beginning to champion the lesser-known species. Multinationals are considering establishing Malaysian plantations of mil pesos (Spanish for "1,000 pesos"), an indication of the tree's local esteem.

The New York Botanical Garden has also begun to breed the bacaba palm (*Oenocarpus bacaba*), whose oil is also like olive oil. Brazil alone imports \$20 million worth of olive oil each year, when it could grow an equally acceptable product locally.

The Brazilian Babassu Institute is trying to develop another Amazonian native, the Babassu palm (*Orbignya maritima*). Its oil, similar to coconut oil, can be refined for eating or industry and was used to run diesel engines during World War II. Once the oil has been pressed out, the remaining kernel is 27% protein and makes a good animal feed and fertilizer.

With large sections of the Amazon rainforests under threat of the axe, botanists are working against time to collect wild babassu palms to study for traits such as variation in protein content. Five thousand trees have been gathered so far.



The Indians of Peru, Venezuela, Brazil and Central America have been doing their own breeding for years. Like most farmers, they pick the best specimens for replanting. A joint Brazil-Peru-Costa Rica expedition has collected over 200 different native varieties of the peach palm (*Bactris gasipaes*).

One expedition member explained that "in Bolivia the Indians developed a peach palm for oil; the Yurimagua Indians of Peru eliminated the spines on the trunk (for easier climbing); and on the border of Brazil, Colombia and Peru we found a variety with a high carbohydrate level".

Better than maize

This palm, with fruit the flavour and texture of chestnuts, provides more protein per hectare than maize and could be developed as a subsistence crop, or for the production of hearts of palm for export, or for the oil.

Other palms remain virtually unstudied. The buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*) or Venezuela's Orinoco swamps is called the "tree of life" by the Guaraní Indians who eat its fruit (rich in vitamin C); make bread from the starchy pith; make wine from the juice; harvest the shoots for hearts of palm; make rafts from the trunks and weave hammocks from the fibres.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has called upon researchers, private investors and government agencies to investigate the growing and mar-

keting of buriti products.

South America even contains a palm which could make elephant poaching less profitable. The vegetable ivory palm (*Phytelephas macrocarpa*) produces an "ivory nut" which, when polished, is an almost perfect substitute for elephant ivory.

People who live near palms have recognised their worth for centuries. Western science is only now beginning to catch up.

— Earlsman

It's a question of goals

By Dr. Marwan Muasher

I was so furious the other day I almost did not recognise my friend Omar whom I have not seen for years. We ran into each other in the street.

"Have you forgotten your friend, or what?" he started. "It's so good to see you after all these years."

"It's so good to see you too, Omar", I said. "Excuse me for not recognising you, but my mind is occupied with something."

"And what could that be, that makes you forget your friends?" he said almost sarcastically.

"Well", I started, "it all was triggered by a news item I read in the paper the other day. It said that one of the officials of the athletic union forbade the sports writers from sitting in their usual assigned seats because they published a story questioning a particular goal made by a certain club."

"That's it?" Omar said, trying to keep himself from laughing. "That's what's bothering you?"

"That in itself is not it", I replied, getting frustrated because Omar was not getting my point. "It is just one of many incidents that made me think. Does this official think he owns the stadium? And is a difference of opinion reason enough for him to act the way he did?"

"You are serious about this, aren't you?" Omar said, surprised. "And that is all you're worried about? Why don't you bother yourself with more serious matters than a football game?"

"That's precisely my point, Omar", I said, getting more agitated. "It goes beyond this seemingly minor incident. It shows that we are a people intolerant of free expression of thought. If we cannot tolerate differences of opinion about small matters like this, how are we expected to tolerate different opinions about bigger and more important matters? The question is really this: Do we have the freedom as human beings to express our thoughts, as guaranteed in the constitution, or not?"

"You must have been in the United States, my friend, haven't you?" Omar said, shaking his head. "Yes, but I fail to see what that has got to do with it." "Well, my friend, you have to understand that this is not the States".

"You mean to say, that they value freedom of expression there and they do not here?" "Don't give me that. What I mean is that things function dif-

ferently here, and you'd better understand this if you want to live happily. You people amaze me. You go abroad for a while and come back with foreign ideas, as if you have never lived here!"

"You mean it's wrong to protest and demand that I be treated like a human being in my own country?"

"I mean that now you are protesting against a minor incident. Tomorrow you might ask for schools to become co-educational. Next week God knows what you might criticise. Pretty soon ideas like yours will cause anarchy and confusion in people's minds, and you will lead your whole life arguing with others."

"I never thought I was causing so much trouble", I said almost apologetically. "What do you suggest I do, Omar?"

"Take it easy. Stick to your field of study. You have a good degree that can provide you with an excellent job."

"But I can't find a job. They say my degree is too technical, that I'm overqualified."

"I never thought you were so dumb", Omar said, starting to lose patience with me. "Do I have to spell it out for you? Look, you've studied what you wanted, you satisfied your intellectual needs, now you're back. This is a fact you have to live with. You don't need to work exactly in your field. Do what others do, start a business of some sort, and I assure you you'll be rich in no time."

"Money, money, money. Is that all people talk about here? What if I have needs I want to fulfil other than monetary ones?"

"I am not going even to attempt to answer that one", Omar said, appalled. "You have been in the States for too long, too long."

I was getting scared to ask Omar more questions. But I thought he had a point, so I carried it further.

"So you are asking me to forget about my degree, forget about my ideas, and start anew?"

"Not in so many words, but you're getting it." "I had one more question. 'Why, then', I said, 'did I waste my time and money studying? I would have been better off not going away in the first place, and would not have bothered you nor troubled myself with all these frustrations'."

"Oh, come on, don't dramatise things. They all come back charged with ideas and emotions. Just give yourself a chance to blend in, and things won't seem so bad. My friend, you've got a lot to learn."

Dig reveals harsh daily life in Red Sea port

By Donald J. Frederick

WASHINGTON — It was a small world even in the days of the Roman Empire.

The Romans and at least some of their subjects traded with lands as remote as India. Goods from the East flowed through small Egyptian ports such as Quseir Al-Qadim on the Red Sea.

An expedition led by archaeologists Janet H. Johnson and Donald S. Whitcomb of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago has turned up hundreds of thousands of artifacts, including Chinese porcelain, pieces of Indian batik, and rare Alexandrian glass at the site of the old port. The dig, about 480 kilometres southeast of Cairo, is partly supported by the National Geographic Society.

The people in the seaside settlement lived a harsh life despite the riches that sometimes piled up around them. Situated in a desert landscape, the port had few nat-

ural resources. Food, water, even fuel for animals had to be imported.

Among the many letters found in the excavations was a significant plea on a potsherd for three jars of wine from a parched Roman tribune on manoeuvres in the nearby desert.

In contrast, the desert could be cruelly cold at night. Desperate note from the Islamic period reads: "O God, God, we are in cold weather, as only God can imagine. Oh Father please buy a shawl for each of us because we are dying of this terrible cold."

Intent on exploiting the spice trade, the Romans supported the hardship port because of its strategic location at the end of the shortest overland route between the Nile Valley and the Red Sea. Peppercorns, a spice as valuable as gold in ancient times, coarse a jute cloth, and teak wood found at Quseir Al-Qadim confirm the port's trade ties with India.

"We were also surprised to find

inscriptions in the ancient Tamil language of India on a number of pottery sherds," said Dr. Johnson. "Roman historians mentioned an Indian presence in Egypt — but this is the first actual physical evidence."

Several of the inscriptions and a small forge were found in a series of humble rooms that may have housed Indian merchants and ironworkers.

An Ethnic Mix At its peak, the port's population probably numbered less than 2,000. "Egyptians, Greco-Egyptians, Indians, Nabateans — it's very difficult to determine just who was living there then," said Dr. Whitcomb. "But it's fairly certain the Roman presence was small, only a few administrators and a small garrison at most."

One of the most poignant Roman remains, the skeleton of a youth, was found buried in a ruined storage building.

"The Romans normally buried their dead in a distant necropolis,

but this unfortunate boy was secretly placed beneath the rubble," said Dr. Whitcomb. "You can almost visualise a night burial, someone sneaking off after digging the shallow grave and covering him up."

Nearby, during excavation of what was once a Roman administration building, workers came across another curious burial — a cloth bundle stashed in a wall niche. "I knew it was an animal — I could see the little skull and two claws sticking out," recalled Dr. Carol Meyer, who removed the remains.

The animal had been wrapped mummy-style in several colourful cloths, a green and purple stripe still visible on one. Bits of fur remained on the body and inside were five tiny skulls. The animal turned out to be a second-century pet cat that had eaten five rats shortly before dying.

In the Islamic era most of the dead were buried near the town. The archaeologists have found

remnants of their highly decorative clothing — fancy silks and distinctive blue and white checked head cloths. And many of their letters have survived the centuries, because of the dry climate and high rag content of the fine quality paper.

"We discovered hundreds of them," said Johnson. "It's as if someone had emptied a wastebasket over the site."

"Why don't you write?" Among the missives were a love letter and a note from an anxious mother to her son containing the time-honoured question, "Why don't you write more often?"

Her son may have been a promising young member of one of the trading families that controlled the flow of goods through the port. Like junior executives today, younger men often had to serve time in the hinterlands before moving on to corporate headquarters.

Because Quseir Al-Qadim was

such a backwater, the archaeologists speculate that it was all but deserted except during the four months — June through September — when monsoon winds guided ships to and from the port.

In the monsoon season the port's modest limestone storage buildings would have been stacked high with goods such as Chinese porcelains, batiks and spices from India, pottery from the Sudan and East Africa.

"One of the most curious finds of all," said Dr. Johnson, "was a piece of iron shaped like a flattened head of a golf club and known as a kishi penny. It's the first time this type of currency has been found outside West Africa."

Despite these far-flung ties, Quseir Al-Qadim remained vulnerable. Just as it had earlier, the brutal desert environment reclaimed the small port from the entrepreneurs when the economy dipped in the late 14th century.

— National Geographic Society News feature

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Korea
17:50 Children's Cartoons
18:15 Children's Programme
18:30 Local Programme
18:50 Local Programme
19:10 News in Arabic
19:30 Arabic Series
20:00 Arabic Programme on Women
20:30 Arabic Programme
21:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

19:00 French Programme
19:30 News in French
19:50 News in Hebrew
20:10 Comedy: House Call
20:30 Comedy: House Call
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Hart to Hart

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
07:30 News Summary
07:50 Morning Show
08:10 News Summary
08:30 News Summary
08:50 Pop Session
09:10 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
09:50 News Bulletin
10:10 Instrumentals
10:30 Music Time
10:50 Concert Hour
11:10 News Summary
11:30 Instrumentals, Old Favorites
11:50 First Spin
12:10 News Summary
12:30 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral
12:50 Newsdesk
13:10 Date with a Star
13:30 News Summary
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Bolton Bulletin 06:40 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:24

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Multimedia exhibition by Tewfik Al Sayed, at the French Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by Ayman Al Nimer, at the British Council.

* 30 Years of Jordanian-U.S. Economic Cooperation, at the American Centre.

* Paintings by Mohammed Bulla, at the Regency Palace Hotel.

* Amateur photography exhibition, at the University of Jordan.

VIDEO

* Civilization: Paris Four Memoirs, les Bouillottes a Descent (at 5:00 p.m.) and Varieties: Yves Montand (at 6:00 p.m.) at the French Cultural Centre.

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MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ota (Closed EID). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sundays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Service Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr

06:28 (Sunrise) Shuruq

11:30 Dhuhr

14:14 'Asr

15:20 Maghrib

SPORTS

Penarol gives S.America 13th World Club Soccer triumph

TOKYO (R) — Penarol of Uruguay gave South America their 13th success in the World Club Soccer Championship when they beat European Cup holders Aston Villa of England 2-0 in Tokyo's national stadium Sunday.

On a hard, uneven pitch which appeared to suit the individual skills and speed of the South Americans better than the strength and directness of the Villa players, Penarol lifted the trophy for the third time with a goal in each half.

Jair Goncalves scored the first in the 27th minute after Penarol denied Villa a goal in the opening 20 minutes when the English Club mounted their best attacks. Walker Silva's goal after 67 minutes put victory beyond Villa's reach.

South America now have a 13-8 lead in this series of matches against the European Cup holders and Sunday's success was their third in a row against English opponents.

Nottingham Forest and Liverpool, who lost to Brazil's Flamengo in 1981, have been beaten in the past two years.

Having failed to make anything of their early pressure, Villa were rocked by Goncalves's goal. The striker punched a free kick against the left post and the ball then struck the crossbar before bouncing into the goalmouth and spinning into the goal.

Soon afterwards Walter Olivera was shown the referee's yellow card, the first of three cautions handed out to Penarol players. Otherwise it was an incident-free match played before a crowd of 62,000 in the stadium built for the 1964 Olympic Games.

The longer Villa went without forcing an equaliser, the more risks they had to take in defence and they became increasingly vulnerable to the fast-breaking Penarol attackers.

It was such a break from mid-field that brought Penarol their second goal. Silva took a pass, outpaced the Villa defence and shot as Jimmy Rimmer ran out to narrow the angle. Rimmer managed to block the ball but could not hold it and Silva fired home the rebound.

Villa fought back but with increasing hopelessness, occasionally ruffling the Penarol defence but never able to put the finishing touch to some promising moves.

Their best chance came in the 69th minute when Tony Morley, who had a good game on the wing, released a cross which Gary Shaw should have made more of than a header into the arms of goalkeeper Gustavo Fernandez.

Penarol seemed likely to score a third six minutes from the end, but Silva, having broken clear, tripped and fell trying to control the ball and the chance went begging.

Australia defeats N. Zealand at world hockey meet

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia fought back from being two goals down to beat New Zealand 7-3 in the World Hockey Tournament here Sunday and become clear leaders of Pool "B".

The win, Australia's second in two games, puts them two points ahead of the next three teams in their pool, but they have yet to face West Germany and England.

West Germany snatched a controversial 2-1 win over England Sunday after England missed two penalty strokes and disputed a number of umpiring decisions in the closing minutes.

And the Netherlands cruised to an 8-0 victory over China in Pool "A" to give them their second win in two games.

In-form New Zealand looked set to repeat their upset win over West Germany when they went 2-0 up against Australia midway through the first half.

But three second-half goals in

two minutes put Australia on the road to victory. New Zealand must now beat England to have any chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

After their poor form against New Zealand, West Germany made the most of two costly blunders by England to pick up valuable points.

England took the lead in the fourth minute through Sean Kerly but Heiner Dopp equalised seven minutes later. Then Kerly missed the first penalty in the 20th minute and Danny Bhaura missed another six minutes into the second half.

West Germany went ahead through full back Carsten Fischer early in the second half and hung on to win.

Striker Roderik Bouwman grabbed five goals as the Netherlands romped to an easy victory over the Chinese.

Bouwman's haul included three

penalty corners, while striker Tom Van 't Hek added two goals to the hat-trick he scored against Malaysia Saturday.

The Netherlands' other goal came from winger Maarten van Grimbergen.

Rain disrupts India, Pakistan test

LAHORE (R) — Rain and bad light wrecked India's first innings reply to Pakistan's 485 on the third day of the first cricket test here Sunday.

Rain brought play to a close at lunch after skipper Sunil Gavaskar and Arun Lal had given India a splendid start with an unbeaten first wicket stand of 87.

At lunch Gavaskar was 38 not out, having completed his 1,000 runs against Pakistan, and Arun Lal was on 43.

India began their reply Sunday morning in overcast conditions, and both openers had to survive some testing moments from Pakistan's five-man pace attack.

Rain began to fall during the interval and although it stopped later bad light forced umpires Amanullah Khan and Mahboob Shah to call off the day's play 30 minutes before the scheduled close.

Kriek, Denton to clash on Australian Open final

MELBOURNE (R) — Champion Johan Kriek of the United States meets compatriot Steve Denton in the final of the Australian Open Tennis Championship Monday for the second time this year.

South African-born Kriek, who beat Denton 6-2, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 last January to lift the Australian title, faces the big-serving Texan at Kooyong again to defend his \$450,000 crown.

Kriek, the top seed whose win this year made him the first South African to win a grand-slam tournament, reached the final with a tough 7-6, 7-6, 4-6, 3-6, 7-5 win over Australian Paul McNamee.

Denton was also taken to five sets before defeating Hank Pfister, another hard serving American, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6.

It is the first time since Australia's Roy Emerson scored his second victory over American Arthur Ashe to win his fifth open title in 1967 that the same two players have met in consecutive finals of the championship.

McNamee clawed his way back into the match after going two sets down and had one match point against Kriek in the final set.

The Australian levelled the semifinal after Kriek slid head-first into the umpire's chair in the sixth game of the fourth set while racing across court to reach a McNamee return.

He was down on the court for nearly two minutes and McNamee walked around the net to check that he was not badly hurt. When the match resumed the Australian ran out an easy 6-3 winner.

But 24-year-old Kriek battled back to win the final set, although afterwards he said he felt "lucky to win".

"I hadn't had a really tough match since the first round," he said. "I was paying a lot of attention, but I didn't feel too comfortable coming in on my second serve because he was hitting winners."

"I was trying to get my momentum and mental attitude up, but he gets so hyped up he can hit winners from anywhere on the court."

McNamee said: "It's a big disappointment and I'm exhausted. I just wanted to try to make him win every single point and I wasn't really that comfortable out there."

American Chacon batters his way to WBC title victory

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — American Bobby Chacon battered his way through 15 bloody rounds Saturday night to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight title from Rafael "Bazooka" Limon of Mexico on a unanimous points decision.

Limon dominated the first four rounds with roundhouse lefts and dropped Chacon to his knees in the third round with a solid left hook behind the ear. Chacon quickly got to his feet and took a standing eight count.

Chacon came back in the middle rounds, launching a barrage of punches which seemed to tire the champion. But Limon found enough strength to land a hard left hook to the face to send Chacon to the canvas for another eight count in the 10th round.

Undeterred, Chacon, bleeding from a cut on the bridge of his nose, waded in, raking Limon with lefts and rights. Limon was stunned several times, but Chacon

could not put him away.

With about 25 seconds left in the final round, Chacon landed two hard rights to the head, dropping Limon to the floor. He got up after an eight count, but was badly shaken. Five seconds later, however, the bell sounded, ending the fight and saving Limon from a knockout.

About 7,000 mostly pro-Chacon fans watched the fight at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The crowd spurred on the new champion with chants of "Bobby, Bobby, Bobby" throughout the fight.

Chacon's record is now 51 wins, six losses and one draw, while Limon's is 47-12-2. Chacon is 31 and Limon 28.

The three judges scored the fight 143-141, 141-140 and 142-141 for Chacon.

Chacon entered the fight as the fifth-ranked super-featherweight and has now won his second WBC crown. He took the featherweight title in 1975.

After the fight Chacon spoke of his wife, Valerie, who killed herself last March because Chacon would not quit boxing.

"I wish that my wife Valerie just could have waited for one more fight," Chacon said. "I told her this is what I wanted. I just wish she were here to see this."

"Right now I'm just going to relax and take it all in...but it looks like I'll fight again."

England suffers stunning collapse in third test against Australia

ADELAIDE (R) — Australian captain Greg Chappell enforced the follow-on after England collapsed dramatically on a blameless pitch on the third day of the third cricket test at the Adelaide Oval Sunday.

England lost their last seven first innings wickets for only 35 runs to be all out for 216 and trail by 222. At the close they were 90 for one in their second innings, still needing 132 to avoid being beaten by an innings.

Australia, already 1-0 up, will be confident of taking an unbeatle lead in the five-match series when play resumes after Monday's rest day. Although England have made a solid start to their second innings, the frailty of their middle and lower-order batting was brutally exposed this afternoon.

After being 140 for two and 181 for three, the England innings folded against the pace bowling of Geoff Lawson, Jeff Thomson and Rodney Hogg. With little in the pitch to help them, the trio were indebted as much to the shortcomings of the batsmen as their own endeavours for their successes.

Once again it was Lawson, who has now taken 21 wickets in the series, who undermined the England innings.

Lawson broke a 119-run third wicket stand between David Gower and Allan Lamb which had survived the morning session and then in the space of three balls removed Lamb, who was top scorer with 82, and Derek Randall to start the England slide.

His final haul was four for 56 from 18 overs while Hogg had two for 41 and Thomson, who mopped up the innings with the wickets of Ian Botham, Eddie Hemmings and Bob Willis, had three for 51. Off-spinner Bruce Yardley completed the wicket-taking.

England looked set for a big total while Gower and Lamb were batting. They came together Saturday at 21 for two, taking the score to 66 at the close, and they continued to bat steadily this morning, bringing up the 100 partnership in 145 minutes.

Lawson broke the stand at 140 with his second ball after lunch, wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh taking his third catch, after Gower was surprised by a ball that rose more steeply than most of its predecessors.

Lamb and Botham, showing more application than in any previous innings on the tour, carried the score to 181 before Lamb made a controversial exit. Marsh claimed a leg-side catch but Lamb clearly felt he had not touched the

ball and left grudgingly when the appeal succeeded.

There was no doubting Randall's fate two balls later, Lawson swinging a full-length delivery between bat and pad to bowl the England number six for naught.

Next Hogg dismissed Geoff Miller with the help of a fine catch by Yardley and at 199 Bob Taylor was seventh out, caught at slip by Chappell off Yardley.

Thomson then finished off the innings. He had Botham caught by Kepler Wessels as he aimed a drive on the leg side, knocked over Hemmings's off stump with an inswinging and finally cut one back to bowl Willis.

When Thomson had Chris Tav- er caught at short leg at the start of England's second innings, the Queensland fast bowler had taken four wickets in 19 balls for seven runs.

But Tavere's dismissal proved the day's final disaster for England with Graeme Fowler and Gower adding 79 in an unbroken second-wicket stand before the close.

In fact Australia suffered the one remaining setback when Yardley bruised a cheek in a fall while fielding a shot from Gower. He will see a doctor Monday.

SV Hamburg aims at title



Hamburg (DaD) — Bundesliga soccer stars SV Hamburg, unbeaten in 33 league fixtures, aim to retain their league title. But they were held to a 1-1 draw by Hertha Berlin, whose goalie Gregor Quastan (photo) was in outstanding form. Hamburg, currently No. 2, are still confident of topping the table at the half-way mark. The club that does so almost invariably goes on to clinch the title.

Italians begin Cho Oyo climb

KATHMANDU (R) — Famous Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner and six other climbers have begun their assault on the 8,153-metre mount Cho Oyo in the Nepalese Himalayas, according to a message from the team.

In a message to Reuters, Messner, 38, from Italy's South Tirol reported that his expedition had pitched its first high-altitude camp at 6,000 metres on the world's eighth highest peak early this month.

Messner said the team had climbed a further 600 metres on Dec. 6 before descending to base camp for a brief rest.

The climbers had planned to return to the attack on Cho Oyo on Dec. 8 despite the strong winds and bitter cold, he said in the message written a day earlier.

"We do hope that the weather lasts without snowing because we have enough problems with the wind," Messner said. If Messner scales Cho Oyo, he will be the first person to have climbed four of the world's fourteen 8000-metre peaks in the same year.

Noah wins Toulouse Grand Prix

TOULOUSE, France (R) — French number one Yannick Noah, 22, completed an easy 6-3, 6-2 win over Czechoslovak Tomas Smid in the final of the Toulouse Tennis Grand Prix Sunday.

Noah's victory gave him enough Grand Prix points for a place in next month's 12-player World Masters' tournament in New York.

The 26-year-old Czechoslovak number two has now lost eight of his last nine matches against Noah.

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WORLD

U.S. turns down Soviet offer of big cuts in intermediate-range missiles

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department Sunday dismissed a reported Soviet proposal to cut its intermediate-range missile force by more than half if the United States cancelled its planned missile deployment in Europe.

Commenting on a report in the New York Times that the Soviet Union proposed this during nuclear talks in Geneva, the department spokeswoman said the proposal would leave the Soviet Union with a monopoly of these missiles in Europe.

"The current Soviet position in the intermediate-range missile negotiations would entail a Soviet monopoly over the United States in longer-range intermediate missiles," department spokeswoman Anita Stockman said.

"It would mean zero for the United States and a substantial force of SS-20s for the USSR."

According to the New York Times, the Soviet Union indicated in the Geneva talks two weeks ago that it would propose reducing its intermediate missile force from 600 to 250, with 150 targeted on Western Europe and 100 on Asia, if the United States cancelled plans for deploying Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Europe.

The New York Times said such a Soviet force would represent the lowest level of Soviet intermediate-range launchers, megatonnage and payload since Moscow's buildup began in the 1960s.

The department also rejected a reported Soviet demand that the Soviet Union be allowed to maintain missiles to compensate for the independent nuclear forces of Britain and France.

'Dense pack' deployment plan under a cloud

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite setbacks this past week, U.S. administration officials remain confident that Congress will approve the MX missile but concede President Reagan's "dense pack" basing plan is in serious doubt.

'Cubans will be in Angola as long as necessary'

HAVANA (R) — In a bitter speech denouncing U.S. foreign policy as fascist, President Fidel Castro said Sunday that Cuban troops would remain in Angola as long as the Angolan government wanted them.

The Cuban leader accused the Reagan administration of taking an "aggressive, fascist, bloody and repressive" line against what he described as popular struggles around the world.

Dr. Castro said the United States gave its support to South Africa, and that was why there was no peace in Namibia (South West Africa) and Angola.

South Africa has long insisted that Cuban troops must leave Angola before Namibia, which is administered by Pretoria in defiance of the United Nations, can become independent.

Addressing militiamen gathered in Havana's Revolution Square, Dr. Castro said Cuba was ready to withdraw its troops whenever Angola called on them to go.

"We have absolute respect for the domestic and foreign policy of any country that asks us for troops," he said.

Citing a press dispatch which said that Cuba had reinforced its troops in Angola, President Cas-

tro commented: "We are not going to say if the report is the truth or a lie but if we did so we would be carrying out our duty in view of imperialist threats."

He accused the Reagan administration of training, arming and directing Honduras-based Nicaraguan troops loyal to the late dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Dr. Castro said plans for an invasion of Nicaragua by these forces had been exposed by Newsweek and the New York Times.

In 1961, before the abortive bay of pigs landing, U.S. newspapers withheld stories about plans for that invasion because of pressures from Washington, "but this time it is not like that," he said.

Dr. Castro denied that Cuba had transferred Soviet weapons to Central America.

"It is known that there are clauses in our agreement with the Soviet Union which state that weapons cannot be exported," he said.

Dr. Castro said Cuba had already received its 1981-85 allocation of weapons from the Soviet Union.

But, he added, "we want the imperialists to know that this does not mean we will renounce getting more weapons in this five years if it becomes necessary."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—We had a misunderstanding the other night. After I opened the bidding one diamond, the auction proceeded.

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I presumed that the opponents' weakest suit would be the second bid by dummy and led a heart. That did not turn out too well. In fact, declarer made his contract with two overtricks. Another lead would have beaten the contract, but I'm not going to reveal the suit. What would you have led, and why?—L. Grant, Honolulu, Hawaii

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.) A.—Over the years doubles of opposing contracts, where the defenders are clearly outgunned, have come to mean different things. The most famous of these is the Lightner double of a slam contract, developed by the late Teddy Lightner, which calls for an unusual lead.

The double of a no trump contract by the hand not on lead asks for the following, in this order:

1) If you and your partner have each bid a suit, lead your suit.

2) If one of you has bid a suit and the other has not, lead that suit.

3) If neither of you have bid a suit, lead a suit bid by dummy. Usually, you should

lead the suit that was first bid by dummy, but sometimes you can tell from your own hand that partner wants you to lead dummy's second suit if dummy has bid twice.

4) If no suit has been bid, you should lead a short suit. Partner's double is probably based on a long suit with an entry or two, and you should try to hit his suit.

On the hand you submit, you opened the bidding with one diamond and partner doubled their three no trump. He should have a reasonably high diamond honor and enough in their suits to suggest that the opponents will not be able to run nine tricks before your side regains the lead.

Therefore, lead a diamond. Doubles after an auction that has been unrevealing can sometimes lead to funny incidents, especially at a tournament in Asbury Park, N.J. the auction had gone:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

North was looking for a top score, and he had jumped to three no trump on seven spades headed by the ace, king, and doubletons in the other three suits. East had seven hearts headed by the three top honors, so he doubled—confident that, on the auction, his partner had to be short in hearts. Unfortunately, West had a doubleton in each major, and even sadder, he chose to lead a spade. As a result, declarer made all 13 tricks instead of being down three doubled!

Many defence analysts inside and outside the administration argue that the MX, with 10 powerful and accurate nuclear warheads, is essential for national security and as a bargaining chip in arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union.

They agree the ideal would be a plan to make U.S. land-based missiles capable of surviving a surprise Soviet attack, but say that the MX is needed regardless of how it is based.

Mr. Reagan announced on Nov. 22 his proposal to pack 100 missiles in a small area near Cheyenne, Wyoming, on the theory that exploding Soviet warheads would destroy one another, leaving some of the U.S. missiles intact and able to retaliate.

The setbacks that hit the MX were a 245-176 defeat in the House of Representatives last Tuesday and the disclosure next day that majority of the military joint chiefs of staff had opposed the dense pack deployment method.

Reacting to these blows, the administration pledged an all-out campaign to win approval of the MX in the Senate this week and to reverse the house action in a conference committee vote later.

President Reagan acknowledged at a press conference on Friday that it would be an uphill battle to restore the \$998 million in MX production money which the House stripped from a defence spending bill on Tuesday.

But he said production was essential to counter the more modern Soviet missiles being deployed as well as for U.S. leverage in the arms negotiations with the Soviet Union.

At the same time he left open the possibility that he might agree to another basing method, saying Congress should approve MX funds now and hold a debate, and discussions with the administration, next year on how best to deploy the missile.

Mr. Reagan chose the dense pack plan over the objections of three of the five members of the military joint chiefs of staff, who agreed with the others on the need for a new missile but refused to go along with the unproven dense pack idea.

U.S. plans to relocate military offices in U.K.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defence Department is making plans to set up wartime administrative offices in Britain for use by U.S. commanders in West Germany who would be shifted there if war broke out in Western Europe, U.S. officials have said.

They said several hundred support officers would be moved from the present U.S. military headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany, to the new headquarters to be built in High Wycombe, near London.

The administrative offices would chiefly oversee the airlift and seafight of men and equipment from the United States to reinforce the U.S. forces already in Western Europe, the officials said.

They added that staff officers would also be dispatched from Washington to assist in intelligence and logistics.

The U.S. officials said that command of the actual fighting would continue to be directed by officers in continental Europe, from new wartime headquarters being built at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), near Mons, in Belgium.

Defence officials said there was no truth to assertions in a story in the British Guardian newspaper Friday that said the Stuttgart headquarters would be shifted to High Wycombe in case of war because the United States did not feel it could hold West Germany very long from advancing Soviet forces.

Zia expects to hold free elections in 2 years' time

NEW YORK (R) — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq said in a television interview broadcast Sunday he hoped to hold free elections in his country in about two years' time.

Gen. Zia, who imposed martial law after overthrowing Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in July 1977, made the statement in an interview taped Saturday during a U.S. tour.

Asked when he hoped to hold elections for a democratic government he replied: "It is difficult for me to say, but I can foresee in about two years' time we should be able to hold elections."

Gen. Zia stressed that a developing country must concern itself with responsibility as well as representation, adding that he was "trying to bring in democracy from the grass roots up."

He denied rumours that Pakistan, which has built a nuclear reactor, was preparing to test a "peaceful" nuclear device.

"In our opinion there is no such thing as a peaceful nuclear device, or a non-peaceful nuclear device," he said.

Neighbouring India, with which Pakistan has fought several wars, tested a nuclear bomb in 1974 but insisted it was intended for peaceful purposes only.

Asked whether F-16 warplanes ordered from the United States would be based near the border with India, Gen. Zia replied that they would be located on the other side of the country where they would "face West."

Turning to the situation in Afghanistan, where Soviet troops began a massive military intervention three years ago, Gen. Zia said time was on the side of Moscow and he hoped the free world would not have cause to regret its lack of assistance for Afghan freedom fighters.

Gen. Zia said Pakistan had no plans to allow the country to be used as a base for the Pentagon's unified Southwest Asia Central Command which will replace the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) set up after the 1979 crises in Afghanistan and Iran.

Gen. Zia reaffirmed that Pakistan would back Arab countries if a new war broke out with Israel, saying "we stand by the side of the Arabs in that context."

However, he ruled out sending Pakistani troops to assist Arab countries in such a conflict, adding that his country wanted a peaceful settlement to the dispute.

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Solidarity leader strikes mild note

WARSAW (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's outlawed Solidarity free trade union, has broken his silence for the first time since his release from internment by publishing a letter he wrote to military leader Wojciech Jaruzelski on ways to achieve national reconciliation.

The letter, sent last week and released to the press Saturday, calls for an amnesty for those sentenced under martial law, the reinstatement of sacked union activists and a new trade union policy, but it leaves several questions vague.

Mr. Walesa, released from detention on Nov. 14, said in his letter that Poland's political and economic crisis could be overcome only by the unified efforts of all

sections of society. He said he took it for granted that all internees would be released and called for a return to the "principle of pluralism" in trade union policy.

Western analysts described his tone as mild and discursive rather than demanding, noting that he made no mention of Solidarity and only hinted at his own intended role when he said he was ready to lend his services to achieve a social agreement.

He did not spell out how he envisaged pluralism or scope for various views to be achieved in union policy following the banning of Solidarity in October.

The analysts said Mr. Walesa's prescription for reconciliation did

not match the authorities' apparent plans. Earlier this month, the government looked set to lift martial law but leaders have since made clear it will only be suspended and that special powers will remain to prevent unrest.

Government spokesman Jerry Urban Saturday night accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan of interfering in Polish internal affairs with "aggressive and arrogant proclamations" on the eve of the sejm discussion.

"He makes the normalisation of American-Polish relations contingent on the execution of his instructions ... but the process of emerging from martial law will not be taking place under Washington's pressure," he said.

Seychelles allegedly uncovers plot

VICTORIA (R) — A Seychelles citizen confessed on national radio Sunday that he was a member of a three-man team which was to have killed leading government and army officials here as a prelude to a coup.

Claude Moulinie said in the broadcast that he was a member of an assassination squad led by South African mercenary Mike Asher and a Seychelles citizen, Simon Desnousse.

The two men were killed when their car exploded on a lonely beach here in October, apparently when they accidentally detonated bombs they were to have used.

Mr. Moulinie said he and Mr.

Desnousse received firearms and explosives training in South Africa to blow up government targets. Mr. Moulinie, 25, said he had been questioned by police here but had not been detained.

He said the three-man team was to have killed Youth and Defence Minister Ogilvy Berlois, former Minister Mathew Servina, Army Maj. Raymond Bonte and Navy Capt. Paul Hodul as a prelude to a coup attempt next year.

Sunday's broadcast was the latest in a series featuring tape recordings of exiled Seychelles opposition leaders plotting in a London hotel room earlier this year to overthrow President Albert

Rene's government.

The Seychelles government says it was responsible for bugging the room where leaders of the outlawed Mouvement Pour la Resistance (MPR) discussed a campaign of violence before a mercenary invasion next year.

To date only one person, local tour operator Kathleen Mason, has been arrested in connection with the plot. She has been identified in the tapes as the MPR organiser in the Seychelles.

Mr. Moulinie told reporters that his passport had been seized but otherwise he had not been restricted.

'High vodka prices fail to daunt drunks'

MOSCOW (R) — Alcoholism is causing misery to families in the Soviet Union and huge damage to the economy, while higher vodka prices have failed to cut consumption, Pravda has reported.

The Communist Party daily quoted from readers' letters to show that drunken men inflicted violence and poverty on their families and said women had written asking what could be done to fight the problem.

Pravda sounded a pessimistic note, quoting one reader as saying anti-alcohol propaganda was a waste of time as drunks never noticed it.

State measures to curb vodka

sales by successively raising prices over the past few years had also failed. "Consumption has not been reduced at all," Pravda said.

"Drunkenness meant that machines are standing idle, that building sites come to life on Tuesdays instead of Mondays and are already idle again on Fridays," it reported.

On pay day women could often be seen waiting for their husbands so they could take the money away before it was frittered on drink, Pravda said.

It said people had become used to drunkenness as a way of life and did not worry about the problem, or try to fight it.

"The party daily indirectly condemned local government and party officials for failing to set a good example."

It quoted one letter from northern Russia saying such people were often guests of honour at drunken wedding feasts which went on for days with hundreds of bottles being consumed.

The Soviet Union publishes no statistics about alcoholism but press articles frequently say it is the country's biggest problem.

U.S. sociologists and demographers who specialise in Soviet problems believe the country may have the world's highest rate of alcoholism.

Unanswered question baffles world about alleged Bulgarian backing of Agca

By Michael Sheridan
Reuter

ROME (R) — Bulgaria says Sergei Antonov is an innocent airline official. Italian magistrates think he could be a steel-nerved secret agent who helped a Turk to shoot the Pope.

Mr. Antonov, 34, station manager of the Bulgarian state airline in Rome, was arrested on Nov. 25 for alleged complicity in the attempt on Pope John Paul's life in May last year. An arrest warrant was also issued for a former Bulgarian military attaché.

Bulgaria has dismissed the charges as "laughable" but the Italian press, fed by a series of leaks, has rapidly connected Antonov with Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence for the shooting, and an alleged Soviet bloc plot to kill the Polish Pope.

Yet a number of puzzles remain unanswered. Not the least of them is why Mr. Antonov remained placid behind his desk at the airline office for over a year after the arrest of his alleged accomplice in Saint Peter's Square.

Another is why Agca, a man with well-recorded extreme right-wing connections, should decide to admit joining a Communist-backed plot after initially claiming he acted alone.

The conspiracy theory has been widely aired and boils down to this: The Soviet Union or one of its allies, worried by the influence of the pontiff on Eastern Europe, engineered Agca's escape from prison and prompted him to try and kill the Pope.

But an examination of Agca's confused history as one of Turkey's most ruthless extremists suggests that this notion is not as simple as it may seem.

Mehmet Ali Agca soared to notoriety in 1979 when he killed Abdi Ipecki, editor of the liberal newspaper Milliyet, and then staged an astonishing escape from the Kartal maximum security military prison in Istanbul.

Six accomplices — three soldiers and three civilians — were arrested and charged with helping him.

Fanatically anti-Communist

All six were members of the youth wing of a fanatically anti-Communist group, the Nationalist Movement Party (NMP), later

suspended when the military took power in Turkey.

A 1,000 page indictment against NMP leader Alpaslan Turkes and other NMP members drawn up by the military authorities gave a detailed account of how Agca was helped to flee across the wilds of Eastern Turkey into Iran.

After escaping from prison, Agca threatened in a letter to Millyet to kill the Pope on the Nov. 1979 papal visit to Turkey.

"Western imperialists who are afraid of Turkey's unity of political, military and economic power with the brotherly Islamic countries are sending crusader commander John Paul under the mask of a religious leader," he wrote.

Turkish authorities mounted an enormous security operation and the Pope's visit went off without incident.

In the year before he shot the Pope, Agca, travelled across Europe with apparent ease and is alleged to have met and planned the attack with Turkish fellow-conspirators.

Three Turks are now being held on suspicion of aiding him and an arrest warrant is out for a fourth, Behcir Selenik.

Omar Bagci was arrested in Switzerland soon after the attempt on the Pope's life and has requested the extradition of Musa Eder Celibi, arrested in West Germany last month.

The latest arrest of a suspect named Bekir Celenk was announced by Bulgaria last week. The official BTA news agency cited Western press reports alleging Celenk's involvement with Bulgarian citizens in an assassination attempt and said Bulgarian authorities were investigating.

Route through Bulgaria

Much has been made of Agca's visit to Bulgaria in 1980. But tens of thousands of Turkish workers have to pass through Bulgaria each year on their way to the factories of Eastern Europe. It is not an unusual route.

Reports in Italy now suggest Agca has decided to name Mr. Antonov and other Bulgarians as the people who finally helped him hunt his quarry in Saint Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

Judicial sources say Agca told magistrate Ilario Martella that Mr.

Antonov and his diplomatic colleagues were his accomplices. Newspapers reported that he also said Bulgarian agents offered him more than \$1 million to kill the Pope.

Mr. Antonov's lawyers say witnesses can prove he was in his office at the time of the attack. A photograph supposedly showing Mr. Antonov at the scene turned out to be of an American tourist questioned and cleared by police. A special tribunal ruled however, that Mr. Antonov's arrest was justified.

There have been repeated allegations in the U.S. media that the Bulgarian secret police and the Soviet KGB security police were behind the shooting. A former U.S. ambassador to Poland alleged the KGB authorised or tacitly approved the attack.

Vatican sources say the Pope's Polish staff are inclined towards the theory of a Soviet-sponsored plot, although it has not been proved.

The arrest of Mr. Antonov and the warrant for his compatriot have been swiftly followed by the alleged confession of a leftist Italian trade unionist to spying for Bulgaria and forging links between its secret services and Red Brigades guerrillas.

According to judicial sources the detained union leader, Luigi Scricciolo, accused Bulgarian embassy staff of subversive activities and said Balkan air was a front for espionage.

Unanswered question

Despite these revelations, a Bulgarian embassy spokesman asks one simple — and as yet unanswered — question.

In the 18 months that elapsed between the papal shooting and his arrest, Mr. Antonov was Balkan air station chief with clearance for most areas of Rome's Fiumicino airport, including the tarmac, without customs or passport checks.

Twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays, the ageing Iluskin jet of Balkan Air's flight 168 lifts off on a direct route to Sofia.

If Mr. Antonov was guilty and knew that AGCA could talk at any time, why did he not slip aboard unnoticed one day and escape for ever?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet general's daughter wins battle

PARIS (R) — Tatyana Lozansky, daughter of a three-star Soviet general, arrived in France Saturday after a six-year campaign to be allowed to leave the Soviet Union and join her ex-husband in the United States, airport sources said. "I'd like to fly to Washington Sunday," she was quoted as saying after arriving at Charles de Gaulle airport on a regular Air France flight from Moscow. Her 11-year-old daughter, also called Tatyana, was with her. Edward Lozansky was allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1976 and is now a university researcher in the United States. But Mrs. Lozansky, 30, was told several times until this year that she would never be allowed to leave the country, partly because of her family connections.

Artificial heart man still in bad state

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Dr. Barney Clark, the first person ever to receive a permanent artificial heart, is mumbling his words and is not as alert as he was before, a medical spokesman said. "But specialists have said this desaturated state is normal following a series of seizures and we are not concerned at this stage," the spokesman, Dr. Chase Peterson, told reporters at the University of Utah Medical Centre. "None of us can say there hasn't been brain damage until we have proof Dr. Clark's intellect is there and he is fully alert," Dr. Peterson added.

Gromyko to visit Bonn next month

BONN (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will pay an official two-day visit to Bonn starting on Jan. 16, the West German government said Sunday. The visit will be the first by a high-ranking Soviet politician since Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government took office two months ago.

Iran, Libya rap regional U.S. bases

LONDON (R) — Iran and Libya launched a verbal attack on U.S. military bases in their region and said "struggling people" in the area had every right to launch attacks against them. The Iranian national news agency IRNA, said a joint statement issued at the close of a four-day visit to Iran by Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel-Ali Obeidi, referred to bases "granted to the forces of U.S. imperialism by regional mercenary regimes." Tehran Radio said Iranian President Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei had invited Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi to visit Iran, but gave no date.

Thai student leader shot dead

BANGKOK (R) — A student leader who helped organise student and labour union opposition to recent bus fare increases in Bangkok last month was shot dead a week ago by a lone gunman, police said Sunday. Montchai Soranakhom, 22, was killed as he was walking at night near his mother's home near Prachinab Khiri Khan south of Bangkok, they said, quoting eyewitnesses. News of his death follows a human rights report presented to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda last week charging that officially-sanctioned "death squads" were believed responsible for the murder and mysterious disappearance of 43 people including community workers and journalists over the past two years.

Vandals destroy Paris aquarium

PARIS (R) — Fish specialists performed cardiac massage on three prize Russian sturgeon in a vain attempt to revive the fish after vandals attacked the Paris aquarium. Police said the vandals emptied the vast glass pools of the art-deco aquarium in a pre-dawn raid, leaving three-quarters of the fish, including 100-year-old carp, to die of asphyxiation. "It is sabotage, an odious act," said aquarium director Yvette Rogue after discovering dozens of dead flying fish, pike, trout and even ferocious South American piranhas. Mrs. Rogue said the attackers had managed to avoid two guard dogs and nightwatchmen. The dead fish were later buried, said an aquarium employee, adding: "We were not about to make soup."